



Sandpoint Arts Commission

Public Art Long Range Plan

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What Is Public Art?

Public art is artwork within the public realm such as on publicly owned buildings or within the public right of way and thus freely accessible for the community to enjoy. Public Art may have a utilitarian or aesthetic function and can be crafted from a variety of media.

Public art has the power to be a change agent for a community—culturally, socially, and economically. It can humanize the built environment, energizing public spaces and enhancing a sense of identity for the community. Public art may also serve to educate or remind a community of its heritage. Public art can help define a space, create a sense of arrival or transform an area into a landmark destination. Strategically placed works of public art can set a community apart and accent the unique and special qualities of Sandpoint. This, in turn, may catalyze community generation or regeneration. By enhancing a sense of place, public art may also stimulate investment—attracting visitors and job creators to the area.

“The City of Sandpoint places a high value on attracting, encouraging and developing arts and culture. Sandpoint aspires to be one of the nation’s best small arts towns by encouraging local artists, preserving cultural heritage, nurturing creativity, inspiring original expression, and cultivating art appreciation.”

—2009 Sandpoint Comprehensive Plan

City Code: 2-5-2: Statement of Purpose:

It is the purpose of the commission to act in an advisory capacity to the mayor and city council to create and maintain an atmosphere conducive to the fullest expression of all forms of the arts in order to enrich the lives of all Sandpoint citizens and visitors through public art. (Ord. 1106, 2-18-2004)

Mission Statement

The Sandpoint Arts Commission works collaboratively to enhance the public spaces of the City of Sandpoint with high quality works of art and to promote the City as a center for artistic and cultural excellence.

Vision

The Public Art Program broadens the role of art in the community by:

- Advancing Sandpoint as an arts and cultural destination.
- Ensuring those responsible for the selection and placement of public art are broadly representative of the community.
- Recognizing the achievements and excellence of outstanding artists and increasing public access to their works.
- Developing a public collection of artworks with robust structural and aesthetic quality, representing a wide range of artistic style and disciplines.
- Providing opportunities for artists to advance their art forms.
- Provide for a long term maintenance and relocation fund for artworks in the City of Sandpoint collection.
- Advocate for public works projects to include funds for public art.



Guiding Principles

The following **guiding principles** give direction toward attaining our main goals:

1. **Accessible:** Place public art in open where it is accessible for public viewing and interaction.
2. **Support:** Ensure funding, public involvement, professional staffing and proper maintenance support the program.
3. **Community Design:** Integrate public art into the design of buildings, parks, streetscapes and public spaces which enable art as a natural enhancement to community design.
4. **Community Education:** Establish relationships with schools and local organizations to educate and provide exposure to the arts.
5. **Community Involvement:** Communicate, interact and support other community organizations to deliver art and culture to the community.
6. **Diverse and Durable:** Build a diverse and durable public art collection which incorporates various art media and themes.
7. **Open Public Process:** Select art through an open process that involves a wide range of citizens, groups and artists.

Types of Public Art Projects

The Sandpoint Arts Commission proposes to focus on the following types of projects: SAC Projects, Educational Outreach and Additional Advisory Responsibilities.

1. Art in the Park - working closely with the Department of Parks & Recreation to:

- a. Identify potential projects
- b. Identify project spaces
- c. Identify funding sources



2. City Gateway and Streetscape Art

- a. Identify locations and scope of work in context with other land use and transportation plans of the City, possible projects and locations including but not limited to:
 - i. Murals on city property
 - ii. Sidewalks / Boardwalks
 - iii. Buildings and other vertical surfaces
 - iv. Sculptures
- b. Develop art guidelines
- c. Develop project timelines
- d. Facilitate selection process in collaboration with city staff

3. Educational Outreach

- a. Encourage relationships with local schools and arts programs
 - i. Encourage student public art projects
 - ii. Early involvement in conception and planning
 - iii. Assist in implementation
- b. Recruit involved student board member
- c. Work with schools and other organizations
 - i. Identify participants
 - ii. Identify themes
 - iii. Develop project timelines

4. Additional Advisory Responsibilities

- a. Murals on non-city property
- b. Site Furnishings: waste /recycling cans, benches /seat walls, bicycle racks, drinking fountains, and transit stops
- c. Develop SAC website and artwork inventory in collaboration with City staff

Partnerships & Funding for Public Art

Sandpoint Urban Renewal Agency

Founded in 2005 by the City Council, the Sandpoint Urban Renewal Agency (SURA) is the primary source of funding for public art in Sandpoint. SURA receives its budget—2.5 -5% of which is dedicated to public art— from tax increment (TIF) financing and has a life span of 24 years, which would take the agency to the year 2029.

Under tax increment financing, the increased taxes generated by increased property values in the URA are used to pay for public improvements, "in and other revitalization activities in a portion of that area known as the Revenue Allocation Area (RAA). At the time an urban renewal district is formed, the county assessor establishes the current value for each property in that RAA. This value is referred to as the "base" value. Over time, as both public and private dollars are invested and development occurs in the area, property values rise. The increase in value over the base is called the "incremental" value, or increment. The taxes generated by this incremental value are shared by the school district and the urban renewal agency.

There are two revenue allocation areas within the city which SURA funds may be allocated for public improvements. These two districts, the Northern and the Southern Districts, represent the boundaries where SURA funding for public art may be distributed.

Art by the Inch Fund

The Art by the Inch Fund is a way to collect donations from individuals or foundations that wish to support public art in Sandpoint. The donations are tax deductible under IRS code section 170(c)(1). Unlike funding from SURA, the Art by the Inch fund is not restricted to the Urban Renewal Districts and may be applied anywhere within City limits.

Grants

A wide variety of Grants from public and private entities are available for specific public art projects. Below is a partial list of potential sources for public art grant funding.

- National Endowment for the Arts
- Idaho Community Foundation
- Idaho Department of Commerce
- Idaho Humanities Council
- Inland Northwest Community Foundation
- Idaho Commission on the Arts
- Art Place America

Funding Organizations

Many local organizations have demonstrated a strong commitment to public art—many of which have partnered with the Arts Commission, SURA and the City with public art projects in the past:

- Avista Utilities
- Bonner County
- Bonner County Gardener's Association
- Bonner County Human Rights Task Force
- Bonner Fund for Arts Enhancement through the Idaho Community Foundation
- City of Sandpoint
- Elks Lodge #1376
- Equinox Foundation through the Inland Northwest Community Foundation
- Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce
- Rotary Club of Sandpoint
- Sandpoint Lions Club
- Trout Unlimited

Other Partnership Opportunities

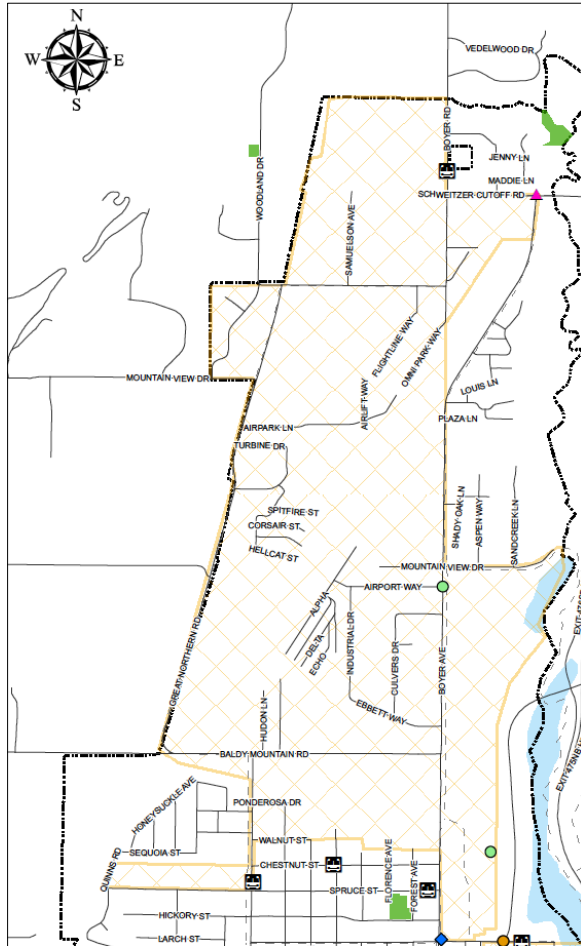
Partnerships with the many cultural institutions and governmental departments listed below are strongly encouraged.

- Bonner County Fair Board
- Bonner County Historical Museum
- Bonner County Library
- Festival at Sandpoint
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- Idaho Transportation Department
- Local Music and Theater Groups
- North Idaho College
- Pend Oreille Arts Council
- Panida Theater
- Sandpoint Historic Commission
- Sandpoint Music Conservatory
- Sandpoint Parks and Recreation Department
- Sandpoint Public Works Department
- Union Pacific Railroad

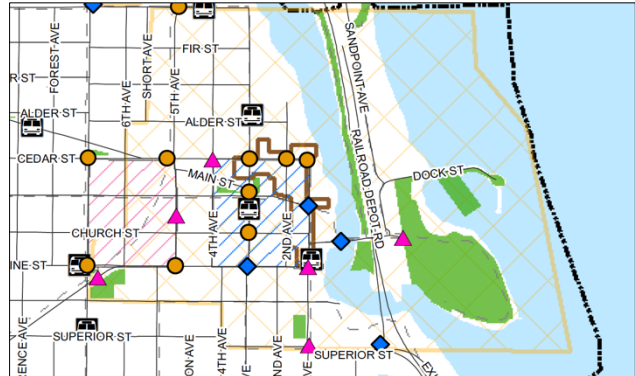


Public Art Planning Map

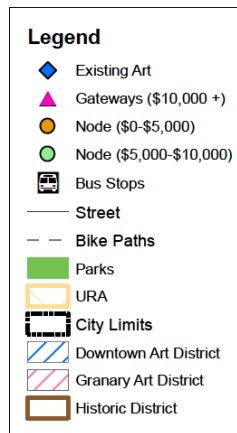
The following Public Art Planning Map is intended to guide decision making for public art projects. Based in part on the conceptual urban design framework within the 2012 Downtown Streets Plan and design guide, the plan seeks to maximize public interaction with the city's art collection. The Commission will move toward this goal by strategically locating public art in context of gateways, activity nodes, pathways, districts, transit stops and parks.



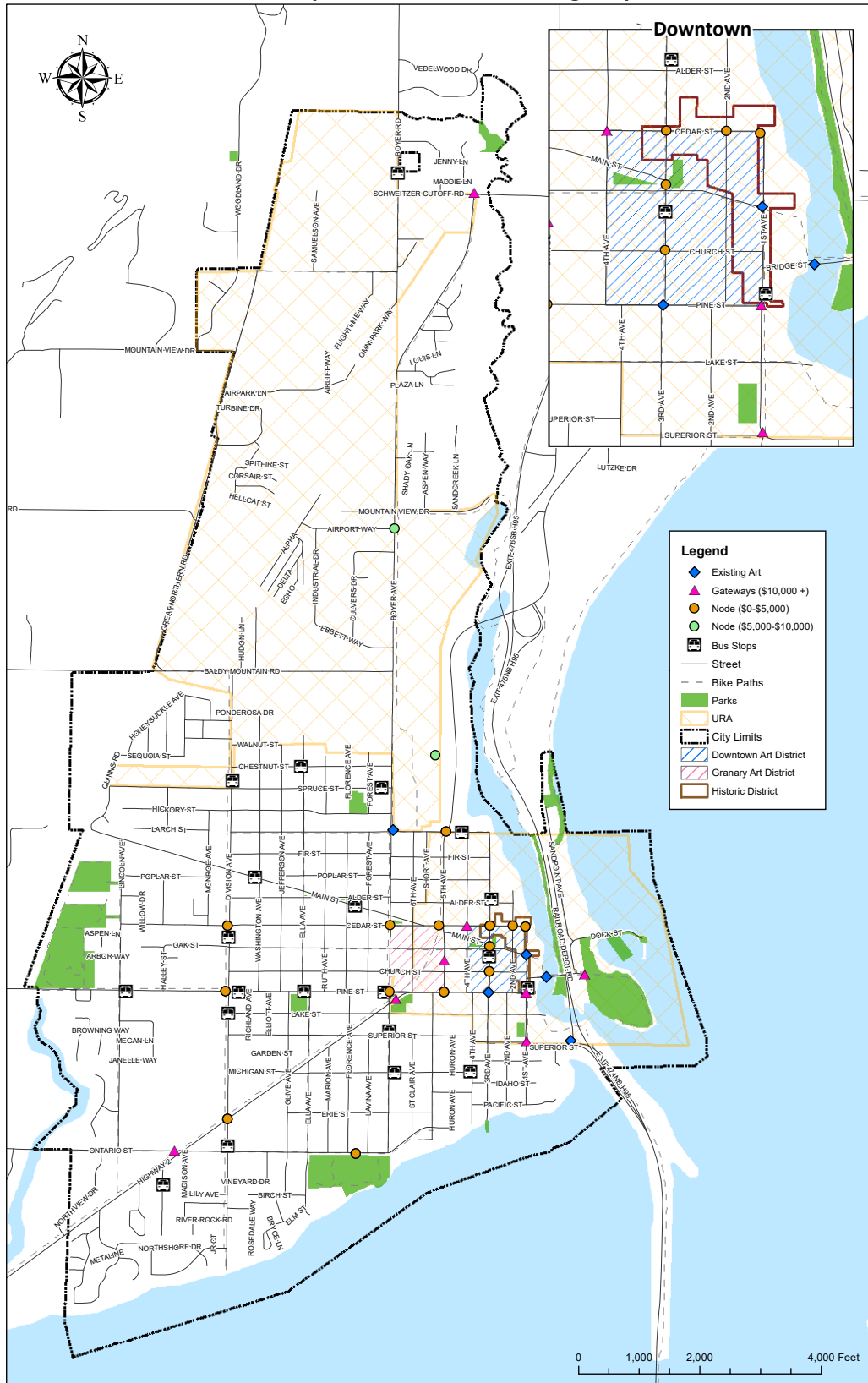
Northern Urban Renewal District



Downtown Urban Renewal District



Sandpoint Public Art Planning Map



Summary

Public art creates a sense of place by incorporating original works of art into public spaces. It involves the public from artist selection to dedication. At its very core, public art enhances the city's quality of life because it:

- Makes the places where people live, work, and play more welcoming and beautiful.
- Creates a deeper interaction between the community and its environment.
- Adds aesthetic value to civic spaces.
- Increases the community's assets by creating images and objects that define a space.
- Allows the community to express its identity and values.
- Provides educational opportunities.
- Enhances roadsides, pedestrian corridors, and community gateways.
- Develops the city's identity as a place that supports artists and celebrates their work.

The Sandpoint Arts Commission strives to live out its mission and continue to provide public art for the enjoyment of future generations.

